

Atlantic Coast Pipeline Listening Sessions

Themes and notes: August 15, 16 and 17

The following document summarizes and lists points made during the Atlantic Coast Pipeline listening sessions in August. Points in **bold** were made by multiple attendees. The following reflects attendees' positions, not those of the Department of Commerce.

Themes

- **Environmental Justice:** Attendees expressed concern that the pipeline's path disproportionately affects poorer communities, communities of color and native communities.
 - o In Lumberton, attendees expressed concern for the importance and historical value these lands represent to tribal communities.
- **Environmental Protection:** Attendees expressed concern about the environmental effects of the pipeline, both in its construction and operation. These concerns were related most to water quality and air quality/greenhouse gas emissions affecting climate change.
- **Economic development (Necessity, jobs and cost):** Attendees claimed that the pipeline is not necessary and that there were adequate sources of natural gas nearby OR the pipeline's plans did not include access to the gas in the areas that need it (no taps). Attendees claim no positive long-term economic impact to affected areas.
- **Safety:** Attendees are concerned about the safety during construction and in ongoing operation. Attendees shared reports about common accidents from pipelines.

Environmental Justice

- The easements are in perpetuity, giving these companies dominion over the land forever
- The path was rejected and rerouted around richer communities
 - o Rerouted around a golf course in Fayetteville (Northampton meeting)
- Other states have denied permits
- Easements lower value by 10%, which many of these people cannot afford.
- Farmer can't do anything around water without calling regulators, Duke Energy should have to do the same.
- Starts and ends in the poorest areas. Communication from companies makes land owners believe this might be something minor and don't understand it's for private use for profit.
- Encroaches on Title 6 civil rights, but these communities can't afford to lobby the way corporations can.
- Mostly in historically black farms, and people are only offered \$2,000-9,000 for the property (Northampton Meeting)
- **Duke Energy sent letters telling land owners they had until Sept. 1 to sign over property**
- Also considering the same area on Northampton county for Vista Green coal ash storage (Tony Brant NAACP Pres)

- **13.2% of this area is Native American, compared to 1% of the rest of the state.**
 - o There is a 10x higher frequency of native Americans in this area, and Dominion's policy staff said they did not believe the state
- UN Declaration of Indigenous people says native populations should be paid for taking risk like this.
- Building an industrial corridor through a native community
- There is no parity in the risk taking. The richer communities will benefit, and the poorer communities will take all the risk.
- Routes were originally through growth areas. Moved to areas with the poorest people in the state and highest population of Native Americans than any other place in the U.S.

Environmental Protection

- Water issues will threaten pristine water all the way to the Neuse River.
- Crops will not grow for 20 years after construction (trench open 2-6 months)
- Backwards infrastructure locked in while other areas of the country move to renewables.
- Goes through three of the most pristine biodiverse basins on the eastern seaboard.
- 30% increase in methane gas in the atmosphere from 2002-2014
- Sediment won't be controlled because construction will happen too fast
- Take lessons from other states' cumulative impact info
- Review 2015 Clean Path Study
- Natural gas is not clean energy
- Solar is happening now, including battery storage.
- The Marcella Shale, where much of this gas will originate, is particularly unclean gas
- Cumulative impact studies??
- Shale gas has same climate impact as coal – not the improvement developers say
- Can't be healthy (more water, fruits, vegetables) if the water and land is dirty
- Area has water that is untouched and untapped, which is a valuable resource the ACP will damage

Economic Development: Necessity/Jobs/Cost

- **Costs \$1-5 million to tap on**
- Duke Energy has the gas they need, but they don't want to buy it from others. They want to make the money off it.
- Demand for energy is essentially static and has been stagnant for 13 years.
- Duke and Dominion will sell 90% of the gas to other energy companies
- Renewables create five times more jobs than fossil fuels
- Cost will just be passed on to ratepayers with increased rates
- There will be a handful at most jobs after construction, and construction jobs will likely be contract workers from out of state.
- Property values dropping
- Jobs is a false statement, only short term
- Companies are not being transparent now, so they won't be later
- Kellogg study says we have enough gas to get to 2030
- Commissioners gave in because they got \$2.2 million (Northampton Meeting)
- Fisheries bring 500 jobs in 2013. What will happen to those?

- Projections from power companies don't account for renewables growth.
- Duke Energy has great battery storage... in Texas where they have competition
- Economic impact might be 18 jobs
- DEQ/State won't have a say in who gets the construction jobs
- Clean energy jobs bring \$6.4 billion and 997 companies
- Climate change costs 1% of GDP per year. With the ACP, every degree will cost the county 15 percent of GDP per year
- Economic Development analysis is not through a neutral third-party review but through the company and contractors (some of which classified as advertising and PR firms)
- **Transco Line (Lumberton) provides all Duke Energy and Dominion need. Want something they own, not have to buy.**
- Need gas west to east not north to south
- Building a line to take gas to Hamlet, but it's not in the ACP. Pembroke to Hamlet line parallels existing
- Zero economic impact to Robeson County

Safety

- Duke Energy's accident rate is up 500%
- There is an accident at pipelines every 20 miles every seven years, which means there will be an accident every 9 months on this pipeline
- **3-7% leakage rate is acceptable, 6-7% leakage rate is acceptable**
- 11460 substantial pipeline incidents
- Will have \$7B in damage
- Natural gas leads to a higher rate of asthma
- "high-consequence areas"
- **First responders are not prepared for the increased calls they will get and don't have the resources or training**
 - o **Fire departments do not get any benefit from the taxes paid by the companies (Gas company pays no fire tax)**
- 2,000 incidents per year, 100 fatalities, 470 industries affected, \$3.43 billion in damage
- Spills happen even if everything is done right (2013 Mayflower AR oil spill)
- Residents remark at noticeable gas smells near pump stations.

Points of Clarification/Next Steps

- What will be the total of short-term and long-term jobs needed to construct and maintain the pipeline?
- Where is the gas from the ACP going? Is any of it staying for use in NC?
- Will any taps be allowed along the pipeline to deliver gas to rural areas of NC?